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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 21 July 1950

SUBJECT Organization, Disposition and Morale of North Korean Forces

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The North Korean People's Army is headed by Defense Minister, Marshal CH'OE Yong-kon. The Chief of Staff is Chief Vice Minister, Major General WANG Kun. The two other Vice Ministers, both subordinates of the Chief of Staff, are the Navy Commandant (name unknown) and the Chief Political Officer, Major General KIM Il; under the latter's command are one air division, about ten infantry divisions and one tank brigade.
2. The Commanding General of the air division is Brigadier General WANG Kun, with headquarters in Pyongyang. One air regiment is at Wonsan on the former Japanese airfield 2 km. northeast of the city; it is rumored that this regiment is commanded by a female Korean brigadier general and another general. The airfields at Chinnampo, Haeju and Yongpo are in use. All planes are single engined and of Soviet make.
3. Before 25 June, division headquarters were at Chinnampo, Wonsan, Hamhung, Nanam, Kaechon, Chorwon and Sariwon. One division at Wonsan moved south after 25 June.
4. The basic infantry unit is the 11-man squad, carrying light machine gun, 2 9.9 mm. rifles, 8 Soviet 7.62 mm. rifles with 72-round circular clip. The division organization is normally triangular, with 1 platoon per company carrying 5 or 6 anti-tank rifles or 4 or 5 90(?)mm. mortars. Each regiment has 43(?)mm. guns; each division has 76-mm. guns. There is one engineer battalion per division. The tank brigade with headquarters at Pyongyang has 4 to 6 regiments.
5. There were no visible preparations for war prior to the invasion. On 26 to 27 June a general headquarters was organized under KIM Il-song, with a five member planning committee including Pak Hyon-yong, CH'OE Yong-kon and KIM Chaek. Conscription was started in January and February 1950, under the "Motherland Defense Committee," formed in 1948 for student military training. Since 25 June, this latter committee has controlled all military drafts.

Document No.

No Change in Class. ☐

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Class. Changed To: TS S

Auth: 111 702

Date: 21 6 78

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Next Review Date: 2008

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Release 2006/02/27 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0003000710014-4

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6. Sukcho, 30 miles north of the 38th parallel on the east coast, is the base for loading transports with fuel, rations and personnel, which are brought in by truck.
7. Army discipline is good because of the fear of covert political agents operating in the ranks under the direction of overt political officers. However, defections would be wholesale if the troops dared. Morale of the troops was poor but rose on 25 June when the attack on South Korea was announced; it fell again on 26 June when the United States entered the picture.

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